

SCI TWELFTH ARMY GROUP
MUNICH DET

x16 21

~~SECRET~~

23 July 1945

SUBJECT: Activity of Sonderführer Dr. WAGNER alias Dr. WENDELL; his plans for Abdul GHANI.

TO: C.O., X-2 Germany

The source of this information is Dr. Murad FERID, Referent SO under Mil Amt D. FERID is considered a very reliable source of information. He has been truthful concerning all things which we have been able to check from this end against our own information and that of the CI War Room. His memory is excellent and his contact with the personnel concerned has been of a personal nature.

1. Sonderführer Dr. WAGNER alias Dr. WENDELL is a man of very high calibre, gifted with a true scientific mind, possessing an extensive knowledge of history, geography and politics, and devoted to his work in Abwehr II. Originally Dr. WAGNER dealt with the Breton and the Flemish (de CLERQ) questions. When the Western Front was eliminated in 1940, WAGNER was transferred to Abwehrgruppe II SO. Late in 1944 WAGNER was again re-assigned, this time to the Leitstelle West under Hauptmann HELMERS, and it was at this point that he dumped a great amount of scientific, statistical and geographical notes on the Middle East into the lap of the Referent SO (DR. FERID). At the same he also informed FERID about his Mohammedan projects and contacts: Indian Resistance Movement (Subhas Chandra BOSE, W/T Station "MARY", Indian Legion), and WAGNER's long range plans for one Abdul GHANI.

2. Indian Resistance Movement

While WAGNER was with the SO Gruppe (Ref SON or MO), his job was that of a liaison officer to the Indian Resistance Movement under the leadership of Subhas Chandra BOSE. Plans were laid for the organisation of an Indian Legion to combat openly and secretly to sabotage the British war effort against the Japanese in the Far East. WAGNER was not allowed to go through with the actual organisation of this proposed legion. That step was to be taken by the AHA (Allgemeines Heeresamt). This was according to the regular German procedure in such cases before the Abwehr organised its field representatives, the FAKs. At this time all the more secret activities were transferred from the Abwehr to other bodies of the General Staff.

It was through the "good offices" of Subhas C. BOSE that Dr. WAGNER managed to establish a German W/T station "MARY" somewhere in the northern mountainous region of India. The precise location of this station was known to a very few people; what was known generally among the Abwehr II personnel was that such a station was established in India, that it maintained regular schedules with Stalmsdorf or Belzig, that this station had been

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 382B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

the means of "outside communication for all elements of the Indian Resistance Movement, that Russian agents in India had traced and managed to control the outgoing messages of the W/T German V-Leute there, but that at first the German General Staff received quick and correct information on the disposition of the British troops in India.

3. Dr. WAGNER's contact with Abdul GHANI:

Dr. WAGNER maintained a close, semi-personal contact with an Afghanese, one Abdul GHANI. GHANI comes from a wealthy and politically important Kabul family. This family had been put out of office and lost its influence some years before the war. Some members of the family had lost their lives and some, like the young Abdul, emigrated to other countries. Young Abdul GHANI came to Germany a number of years before the beginning of the war. Young, intelligent, and anxious to "correct the injustice done to his family", he formed a plan of his own. He chose Germany as the place of his exile because Germany was the opponent of British policies in the Middle and Far East, and the British had a "working agreement" with the rulers of Afghanistan whom GHANI wanted to eliminate. In Germany GHANI joined the Wehrmacht to receive military training (he trained with artillery, infantry, an armoured division, etc.). In 1944 he met Dr. WAGNER. WAGNER promptly assigned a signals man to give a thorough W/T training to GHANI and began to lay long range plans for the use of his protege within the framework of the GIS. When WAGNER was transferred to the Leitstelle West (Autumn 1944), GHANI's official contact remained with the SO service (Mil D, Ref SO). When the German military situation became grave, those in control of Mil D activity (first Major NAUMANN and later Major LOOS) wanted to drop all the long range contacts and projects, and the Referent SO, Dr. FERID, was instructed to break off contact with Abdul GHANI. GHANI, at that time, was in the Tyrol where he established a private amateur transmitting station (as part of his W/T training) and started to broadcast to Belzig Abwehr station BURG. In this way he was interfering with the BURG traffic, and since his official position was not known to anyone outside of WAGNER and the Mil D personnel, his station was D-Fed and GHANI was thrown into jail in Kitzbühl. A W/T message had to be sent from Mil D (at the time located at Bad Elster, Silesia) to release GHANI. FERID could not contact GHANI personally in order to terminate his association with the GIS without hurting GHANI's "oriental feelings" and consequently, GHANI was never informed of either NAUMANN's or LOOS' decision concerning him. Getting tired of inactivity, GHANI started to collect all necessary papers, ration tickets, letters of recommendation, etc., in order to transfer his activity from collapsing Germany to some where else. The last thing heard about this whole affair was a letter from GHANI to FERID. It was posted in Kitzbühl and received at Bad Elster. In the letter GHANI complained bitterly about the prolonged run-around he was getting from the GIS.

4. All this information will be incorporated in the final interrogation report on Oberleutnant Dr. Murad FERID, but it is felt that the activity of Dr. WAGNER and the person of Abdul GHANI are interesting and important enough to receive prompt con-

sideration and thorough study.

5. If an immediate concentrated action in this matter is deemed advisable, the following points should be taken into consideration:

- a. that it is not known at this end whether any of the personnel concerned is already in our hands;
- b. that no additional information about any of the people mentioned is available here at the present time;
- c. that the last known whereabouts of Abdul GHANI at Kitzbühl is now in French-occupied Tyrol.

B. A. Holtsman

B. A. Holtsman
S/A, SCI, Munich

DISTRIBUTION

~~SAC WASHINGTON~~
~~SAC LONDON~~
~~Chief, CIB, G-2, USFET~~

Saint WASHINGTON - 1
Saint LONDON 1
Chief, CIB, G-2, USFET - 1
Ops File 1